

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 247590

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: EG, IS, PINR

SUBJECT: INTSUM 659 - SEPTEMBER 28, 1978

LONDON FOR GLASPIE  
PARIS FOR NICHOLAS MURPHY  
OTHER ADDRESSEES FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION

1. ISRAEL. DESPITE THE OVERWHELMING (84-19, WITH 17 ABSECTIONS) VOTE OF SUPPORT BEGIN RECEIVED IN THE KNESSET FOR THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS, HE WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO FACE SERIOUS CRITICISM FROM THE RIGHT. HIS CHALLENGERS WERE NOT ONLY STRONGLY CRITICAL DURING THE KNESSET DEBATE, BUT THEY HAVE THREATENED TO FORM A NEW RIGHTWING PARTY.

2. THE ATTACKS ON HIM BY SOME OF HIS MOST ARDENT SUPPORTERS HAVE BEEN TRAUMATIC FOR BEGIN. HE SEEMS PARTICULARLY UPSET BY ASSERTIONS THAT HE HAS ABANDONED HIS PRINCIPLES AND DESERTED OLD FRIENDS. BEFORE YESTERDAY'S VOTE, BEGIN REPORTEDLY HAD DECIDED THAT HE WOULD RESIGN IF A MAJORITY OF HIS COALITION DID NOT SUPPORT HIM.

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3. WEST BANK. EVEN BEFORE THEIR IDENTICAL NEGATIVE REACTIONS TO THE RESULTS OF THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT, WEST BANK NOTABLES AND JORDAN SEEMED TO HAVE ENTERED A PERIOD OF INCREASED CONTACTS. THREE OF THE WEST BANK'S MOST INFLUENTIAL MAYORS, INCLUDING TWO OUTSPOKEN PLO SUPPORTERS, HAVE VISITED AMMAN IN RECENT WEEKS. ALTHOUGH THE VISITS APPEAR TO BE RELATED LARGELY TO FINANCIAL AID, THEY MAY HAVE POLITICAL OVERTONES AND INDICATE THE GRADUAL IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN AMMAN AND SOME WEST BANK OFFICIALS. THE MAYORS ARE APPARENTLY INTERESTED IN THE JORDANIAN VIEW OF PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S "SELF-RULE" PROPOSAL AND WANT TO GET A FIRSTHAND ACCOUNT OF JORDAN'S PURPORTED ROLE IN RECENT WEST BANK POLITICAL MANEUVERING.

4. RAMALLAH'S KARIM KHALAF AND BASSAM SHAKAH OF NABLUS VISITED AMMAN IN MID-AUGUST FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH JORDANIAN AND OTHER ARAB OFFICIALS ABOUT AID FOR THEIR MUNICIPALITIES. KHALAF, A STAUNCH PLO SUPPORTER WHOSE RELATIONS WITH JORDAN ARE CORRECT BUT COOL, CAME AWAY WITH VAGUE PROMISES OF INCREASED AID FROM AMMAN. SHAKAH, ALSO A PLO BACKER, APPARENTLY DID MUCH BETTER AND, ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, LINED UP SUBSTANTIAL PROMISES

OF AID FROM THE SAUDI ARABIAN AND LIBYAN AMBASSADORS IN AMMAN. THE SAUDIS REPORTEDLY AGREED TO PROVIDE ALMOST \$7 MILLION FOR NABLUS TO BUY GENERATORS FROM WEST GERMANY AS PART OF SHAKAH'S PLAN TO ENABLE NABLUS TO REMAIN SEPARATE FROM THE ISRAELI ELECTRIC POWER GRID. OTHER PROMISES OF AID CAME FROM THE TUNISIAN AND IRAQI AMBASSADORS IN AMMAN. JORDAN ALSO AGREED TO INCREASE ITS AID TO NABLUS.

5. SHAKAH'S SUCCESS IN GETTING SAUDI AID APPARENTLY IRKED HEBRON'S MODERATE MAYOR FAHD QAWASMAH, WHO ARRIVED IN AMMAN LAST WEEK. HE IMMEDIATELY HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AND BLASTED ARAB STATES FOR FAILING TO DELIVER ON THEIR PROMISES OF AID FOR HEBRON. QAWASMAH SINGLED  
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OUT THE SAUDIS FOR FAILING TO COME ACROSS WITH FUNDS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT A DELEGATION FROM HEBRON HAS BEEN IN SAUDI ARABIA FOR ALMOST A YEAR TRYING TO RAISE MONEY.

6. THE MAYORS APPARENTLY ALSO HELD POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS WITH JORDANIAN CABINET OFFICIALS. THEY WERE PROBABLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED "UNION OF VILLAGERS" -- A QUASI-POLITICAL FORMATION COMPOSED OF LEADERS OF VILLAGE COUNCILS -- SET UP BY FORMER JORDANIAN CABINET MINISTER MUSTAFA DUDIN IN THE HEBRON AREA. THIS ORGANIZATION -- AND A SIMILAR ONE REPORTEDLY UNDER WAY IN NABLUS BACKED BY JORDANIAN LOYALIST ABD AL-RAUF FARIS -- IS VIEWED BY THE MAYORS AS A POTENTIAL RIVAL FOR POLITICAL

INFLUENCE IN THE WEST BANK. SEVERAL MAYORS HAVE TOLD US OFFICIALS THAT THEY BELIEVE ISRAEL IS PROMOTING THESE ORGANIZATIONS TO UNDERCUT THE MAYORS' INFLUENCE AND MAY HOPE TO USE THEM EVENTUALLY TO IMPLEMENT BEGIN'S "SELF-RULE" PLAN ON THE WEST BANK.

7. THE PRESENCE OF FARIS AND DUDIN -- BOTH WELL-KNOWN AS PRO-HASHEMITE -- AS HEADS OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAS ALARMED THE MAYORS, SOME OF WHOM PROBABLY SUSPECT THAT AMMAN HAD A HAND IN SETTING THEM UP. THE MAYORS' RECENT VISITS TO AMMAN MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED IN PART TO SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM JORDAN -- WHICH HAS DENIED HAVING ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE NEW ORGANIZATION.

8. DESPITE THEIR SUSPICIONS, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MAYORS AND AMMAN HAVE IMPROVED OVER THE PAST YEAR. SHAKAH, QAWASMAH, AND KHALAF ALL REFUSED TO ATTEND HUSAYN'S SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION IN NOVEMBER 1977, BUT THEY HAVE GRADUALLY STRENGTHENED THEIR TIES WITH AMMAN  
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AND, AS THE RECENT ROUND OF VISITS INDICATES, NOW TRAVEL  
TO AMMAN ROUTINELY. (CONFIDENTIAL) CHRISTOPHER

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